MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026

On Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 5:37 p.m. the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting at City Hall in the Legislative Chamber, located at 255 South Kansas Avenue with the following members' present:

PRESENT:	Mayor	Adrian Gonzalez
	Mayor Pro Tem	Pete Garcia Jr.
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Adrian Farias
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr.
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez
ABSENT:	None	
STAFF PRESENT:	Xavier Salinas	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Benjamin Castillo	City Attorney

Also present: Omar Rodriguez, Asst. City Manager, Aida Vega, Deputy City Secretary, Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, Rebekah De La Fuente, Planning & Code Enforcement Director, Ray Marroquin, Asst. Fire Chief, Peter Hermida, City Engineer, Eddie Serna, Parks and Recreation Director, Luz Galindo, HR Director, Robert Lopez, Police Chief, Nick Castillo, Public Works Director, David Arce, Utilities Director, Arnold Becho, Library Director, Celine Pardo, Court Clerk, Rick Mendoza, IT Director, Magali Vega, Media Director, Krista Cheramie, Animal Care Services Director, George Quilantan and Lucio Garza, Inframark and other staff members.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.

Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order and certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

B. Invocation.

President Jason Hass, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Church, led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Gonzalez led the "Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag."

D. Roll Call.

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary called the roll and noted perfect attendance and a quorum present.

E. Mayoral recognition.

1) Recognition TK Knights 4U Pony League World Series Champions.

Mayor Gonzalez along with the City Commission recognized the extraordinary accomplishments of the Knights 4U Baseball Team, whose dedication, perseverance, and teamwork earned them the prestigious title of 2026 Pony South Zone World Series Champions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eddie Albert addressed the Commission representing the VFW, the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, and the Weslaco Memorial — an organization with roots in the city dating to 1921, stated he had recently taken over leadership of the Weslaco Memorial and was actively working to expand its impact. He described plans to bring in five interns to work on grant writing and public relations and expressed interest in securing office space previously offered to the VFW on 6th Street. Mr. Albert also mentioned an upcoming series of books planned for release in 2028, coinciding with the centennial of the American Legion Post. He requested consideration to allow the use of the city's office space on 6th Street, noting the organization's long history in the community and its commitment to serving multiple nonprofit and veteran organizations.

Mayor Gonzalez stated at this time the order of the day would be changed and introduced New Business item L. There was no objection.

V. NEW BUSINESS

L. Discussion and consideration of the proposed employee health insurance premiums and employer contribution levels for the upcoming plan year and approve, modify, or provide direction to staff regarding the recommended health insurance premium structure. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

Luz Galindo, Human Resources Director, presented an analysis of the upcoming health insurance premium cost increase and requested direction from the Commission on how to distribute those costs between the city and its employees.

Javier Leal, Consultant of Valley Risk Advisors presented three scenarios. Under the current structure (Exhibit A), the city contributes 85% of total premiums and employees contribute 15%. Exhibit B adjusted the distribution to approximately 90% city / 10% employee. Exhibit C reduced the employee share further to approximately 6%, with the city absorbing 94%. He noted that the total premium increase amounts to approximately $1.1 million. He also clarified that under the current plan, employee-only tier coverage on the HMO is fully paid by the city, and the PPO equivalent costs the employee approximately $7.90 per month.

Mayor Gonzalez voiced in favor of the city absorbing the entire cost increase, keeping employee premiums unchanged as a matter of commitment to city employees, particularly in light of the recent pay raises, stating that allowing insurance costs to offset those raises would be counterproductive. He acknowledged the need for fiscal discipline, but expressed confidence that the city could absorb the increase by prioritizing spending during the upcoming budget process.

Commissioner Farias echoed the Mayor's sentiment but raised additional concerns, requesting a comparative benchmark of what other Valley cities are doing with their health plans and urging a more aggressive push on employee wellness education and preventative care.

Javier Leal confirmed that alternative plan designs — such as increased deductibles or reduced coinsurance — had been explored, but moved the premium needle only about 3%, which was deemed insufficient to justify the tradeoff of higher out-of-pocket costs for employees. He attributed the high premium increase to the city's current elevated loss ratio and indicated that the plan would continue to be monitored quarterly. He also previewed potential future options including a self-funded model with direct provider contracts, a tiered EPO option, and a separate pharmacy benefit manager, but noted these alternatives would be more viable once claims begin to stabilize.

Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, stated that the city is in a strong enough financial position to absorb the full cost increase in the current year but cautioned that if premium increases of 20–40% continue annually, the city may eventually be forced into a large, sudden employee cost increase rather than gradual adjustments.

Xavier Salinas affirmed the city's strong financial stability and expressed gratitude to the Mayor and Commission for their generosity to staff, noting it was an uncommon commitment. Commissioner Pedraza expressed concern about long-term sustainability, cautioning that doing good now could create larger burdens for employees in future years.

Mayor Gonzalez seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to absorb the full health insurance premium cost increase, keeping employee contribution levels unchanged. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

Commissioner Rodriguez excused himself after this item for a prior commitment.

III. REPORTS

A. Report from engineering interns

Peter Hermida, City Engineer, introduced summer interns Nairobi Montes and Alan Flores, who presented a drainage assessment of the Paisano Lane neighborhood — an area that has experienced recurring, severe localized flooding.

The interns outlined a study boundary of approximately 575 acres, extending from North Mile 6.5 West to North Texas Boulevard, and from the expressway north to Sugarcane Road and south to

Panther Drive. Using the Rational Method (Q = CIA), they analyzed runoff generation and compared it against the capacity of the existing pipe and ditch system.

Key findings included: the combined capacity of 15 stormwater pipes flowing into the Westgate Village ditch totals approximately 467.60 cubic feet per second (cfs), while the ditch's full capacity near overtopping is approximately 1,744 cfs. However, storm runoff projections vastly exceed both: a 10-year storm generates approximately 2,235 cfs, a 50-year storm generates 3,016 cfs, and a 100-year storm generates 3,325 cfs. The interns noted that the neighborhood sits in a topographically low zone with slow-draining sandy clay loam soils, and that surrounding urban and commercial development has increased impervious surface area over the past 30–40 years, compounding runoff volumes.

Xavier Salinas questioned the interns on their storm design recommendation. Both interns unequivocally recommended designing to the 100-year storm standard given current rainfall patterns, a response that was well received. A significant challenge for any future drainage solution was the flatness of the existing drainage slope, which the interns described as extremely gradual and required careful analysis in AutoCAD to detect.

B. Weslaco Chamber of Commerce Visitor and Events Center.

Anthony Rivera, Visitors Center & Digital Media Weslaco Chamber of Commerce provided the July 2026 report that included ribbon cuttings for Davila's Clinic, Skin Aesthetics, Daily Dose Coffee, and The Healing Center. Upcoming ribbon cuttings included Dance Time (celebrating 25 years in downtown Weslaco), Wells Market, and Elite Designs. A networking lunch mob was scheduled for the following day at Costa Messa. Chamber membership continued to grow, and a visitor center usage report was distributed.

C. Weslaco Economic Development Corporation.

Jorge Lozano, Asst. Executive Director, reported a nomination packet covering 15 census tracts was submitted to the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism. The nomination will be evaluated over the following two weeks before potential forwarding to the federal level; contracts are being finalized with Civic Solutions (3-to-5-year strategic plan) and Place Strategies (downtown master plan); recruitment and retention continues with several active prospects in discussion; working on its FY2026–27 budget, with plans to increase funding to existing grant programs and expand grant offerings for small businesses and a new EDC logo and brand identity will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine, and the Governing Body has been furnished with background and support material and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, the item(s) will be removed from the consent agenda by the Mayor, a Commission member or the City Manager and will be considered separately.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 7, 2026. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

B. Approval to authorize staff to publish notice of the public hearing for the adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.)

C. Approval on renewal of the Federal Work-Study agreement with UTRGV to allow for employment of work-study students in the city and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Library Department.)

D. Approval of an agreement with South Texas College allowing Work Study employment at the Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Public Library. (Staffed by the Library Department.)

E. Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Weslaco and Weslaco ISD for a joint election for the sharing of polling places in the General Election of November 3, 2026. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

F. Approval to accept FY2025 LETPA grant #5418201 from HSGP for the amount of $18,490.92 with no match required to purchase training equipment. (Staffed by Police Department.)

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. moved to approve consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration of an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Mercedes to reconstruct and pave Mile 2 1/2 West Road extending from Westbound I2 Frontage Road to Pike Boulevard (Mile 8 Road). (Staffed by Asst. City Manager Omar Rodriguez.)

Omar Rodriguez, Asst. City Manager, presented this item, describing the proposed interlocal agreement as a framework for the City of Weslaco and the City of Mercedes to collaboratively reconstruct and pave shared boundary roads (especially when there is an overlap of jurisdiction) starting with Mile 2½ West Road from the Westbound I-2 Frontage Road to Pike Boulevard (Mile 8 Road). The agreement would also establish deal points and cost-sharing guidelines, with each individual project brought back to the Commission for specific approval.

In response to Commissioner Farias on cost responsibility, Omar Rodriguez stated that specifics for each project — including which parties share costs and in what proportion — would be formalized per project. Mayor Gonzalez emphasized the importance of ensuring all parties fulfill their obligations before the city commits funds.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Mercedes to reconstruct and pave Mile 2 1/2 West Road extending from Westbound I2 Frontage Road to Pike Boulevard (Mile 8 Road). The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration of an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to implement the Texas Conviction Reporting (TXCR) interface for conviction submissions. (Staffed by Municipal Court.)

Celine Pardo, Municipal Court Administrator, stated The Texas Department of Public Safety is implementing a web-based system for the electronic reporting of criminal convictions, replacing the current paper-based process, effective January 1, 2027. The interface will be provided to the city at no cost, and the interlocal contract is required to implement the system. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. moved to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to implement the Texas Conviction Reporting as presented. The motion passed unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

C. Discussion and consideration to accept and file the Quarterly Investment Report for period ending June 30, 2026. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, stated the city's investment funds were diversified among authorized depositories Lone Star and TexPool. For the quarter, the city earned approximately $787,000 in interest, with $245,000 allocated to the General Fund and the remainder distributed to capital projects. All investments were confirmed to be in full compliance with the city's investment policy. Staff recommended approval to accept and file as presented.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to accept and file the Quarterly Investment Report for period ending June 30, 2026 as presented. The motion passed unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

D. Discussion and consideration to accept and file the Financial Reports (unaudited) as of June 30, 2026 for the General Fund, Water and Sewer Fund, Solid Waste Fund, and Airport Fund. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos presented the financial reports ending June 30, 2026 as follows: General Fund showed a positive change in fund balance of $5.1M; sales tax performance remains strong on track with the projected budget; the city’s financial position remains strong, with 176 days of operating reserves and 95.37% of ad valorem taxes have been collected for the year. Water & Wastewater Fund: Reflects a positive revenue over expenditures of $300,852, positive working capital days of 56 days based on regular operating costs. While operations remain stable, August is anticipated to be another challenging month as the second half of annual bond payments come due will continue to closely monitor the funds' performance. Sanitation Fund: the fund reflects a positive change in fund balance of $325,565 with working capital reserve at 127 days of operations. Operationally, revenues continue to cover routine expenditures; however, staff will continue monitoring departmental operations carefully as we close the remainder of the year. Airport Fund: reflects a negative net change of $346,722 and continues to operate with a negative number of working capital days. Staff recommended acceptance and filing of these reports.

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to accept and file the Financial Reports as of June 30, 2026 for the General Fund, Water and Sewer Fund, Solid Waste Fund, and Airport Fund as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

E. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2026-61 amending policy regarding assigned electioneering spaces during combined elections. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

Norma A. Cantu stated the resolution would amend the city's policy to reduce the number of designated electioneering spaces during combined elections in even-numbered years. Two layout scenarios were presented. Following a brief discussion, the Commission reached consensus on Scenario 6, which provides a side-by-side arrangement. Commissioner Farias raised a question about whether candidates running unopposed should be in the drawing for electioneering spaces. Staff would look into this and report back.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve Resolution 2026-61 amending policy regarding assigned electioneering spaces during combined elections. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

F. Discussion and consideration of the Election Order Notice for the General Election on November 3, 2026, for City of Weslaco Single Member Commissioner District 4 and Commissioner At Large. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

Norma A. Cantu recommended approval of the Election Order that calls for the General Election to be held November 3, 2026 for At Large Commissioner and Commissioner District 4.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve the Election Order Notice for the General Election on November 3, 2026, for City of Weslaco Single Member Commissioner District 4 and Commissioner At Large as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

G. Discussion and consideration to accept the most advantageous proposal for the LPR purchase on the MVCPA Grant for an amount not to exceed $203,451 with no match required. (Staffed by Police Department.)

Robert Lopez, Police Chief, stated a grant was received from Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA). Staff solicited proposals for License Plate Reader (LPR) equipment and three bids were received — one from Irexai and two from Motorola (one hardwired, one solar-powered). Staff recommended the solar-powered Motorola option, consistent with the city's existing camera infrastructure of approximately 30 cameras. The selected LPRs will include both license plate reading capability and a video surveillance component, allowing staff to access video footage in connection with accidents or stolen vehicle investigations. The total amount is not to exceed $203,451 with no city match required. Staff recommended approval to award Motorola the solar-powered option.

H. Discussion and consideration to approve an amendment to the professional Work Authorization No. 1 with Trimad Consultants, LLC for additional scope of work for the Cotton Estates Drainage Expansion Project in the amount of $15,000. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Peter Hermida stated the amendment to the professional work authorization with Trimad Consultants, LLC in the amount of $15,000 covers additional scope related to the Cotton Estates Drainage Expansion Project. The additional services include bidding assistance and RFI management, which were not originally considered when the project was intended to be handled in-house. Staff indicated the proposed cost is fair for the scope of services, and recommended approval.

A brief discussion touched on the geographic extent of the project — specifically, the ditch running approximately 1,000 feet south of Mile 10 along Cotton Estates — and the presence of private property adjacent to the 95-foot city drainage easement.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved approve the amendment to Work Authorization No. 1 with Trimad Consultants, LLC in the amount of $15,000 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

I. Discussion and consideration of the proposed Interlocal Maintenance Agreement between the City of Weslaco and Hidalgo & Cameron County Irrigation District No. 9 (HCCID9) for Excavation and Hauling Services for Cotton Estates Ditch Widening Project for an amount of $118,156. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Peter Hermida stated this concurs with the previous item for the Cotton Estates drainage expansion project. The proposed agreement with the Hidalgo and Cameron County Irrigation District No. 9 (HCCID9) covers excavation and hauling services for the Cotton Estates Ditch Widening Project in an amount of $118,156.

Staff explained that the ditches in the project area are owned by HCCID9. The irrigation district offered to perform the excavation work at a cost representing approximately 71% of the engineer's estimate of $164,000 for the same scope, resulting in meaningful savings. Staff noted that even under a private contractor scenario, excavated material would still need to be transferred to HCCID9, making the interlocal arrangement both cost-effective and practically advantageous. The overall project engineer's estimate — inclusive of concrete headwall work and fence/gate removal — totals approximately $248,000. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Farias inquired about the total beneficiaries of the project. Staff estimated approximately 300 homes in the Cotton Estates, Tahoe, and downstream subdivisions would benefit from the increased ditch capacity. Mayor Gonzalez requested that future drainage project presentations include an estimate of the number of homes impacted.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the Interlocal Maintenance Agreement with HCCID9 for Cotton Estates Ditch Widening in the amount of $118,156 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

<u>J. Discussion and consideration to approve Work Authorization No. 1 to GDJ Engineering, LLC. for On-Call Professional Engineering Services for Citywide Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Assessment in the amount of $254,916. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)</u>

Peter Hermida stated the Work Authorization No. 1 to GDJ Engineering, LLC was for a Citywide Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Assessment covering approximately 200 roads, in the amount of $254,916. The assessment will produce a publicly viewable dashboard, pavement scoring matrix, and condition-based recommendations for each road segment. The project timeline is approximately seven months from the kickoff meeting, with monthly progress updates to staff and city management. Staff recommended approval.

The commission and staff offered strong support for the assessment, citing multiple benefits: the ability to qualify for state reimbursement following disasters, the creation of a 5-to-10-year paving plan, and the ability to prioritize repair methods (e.g., reconstruction, overlay, seal coat, crack sealing) based on objective data and Mayor Gonzalez noted that having documentation for each street would be critical for federal and state reimbursement requests following flooding events.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to approve Work Authorization No. 1 to GDJ Engineering, LLC for the Citywide Pavement Condition Index Assessment in the amount of $254,916 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

<u>K. Discussion and consideration for Change Order No. 8 for the Mayor Pablo Pena Park Improvements Project for park roadway not to exceed $93,080. (Staffed by Parks and Recreation Department.)</u>

Eddie Serna, Parks and Recreation Director, presented Change Order No. 8 for the Mayor Pablo Pena Park Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed $93,080. The change order covers reconstruction of the park roadway along Utah Street, which divides the park. During project execution, the existing roadway was found to be in a state of deterioration that precluded simple resurfacing, necessitating full reconstruction. Staff recommended approval.

Discussion regarding the need to coordinate construction sequencing given the ongoing Boys and Girls Club bus access through the area ensued. Staff confirmed that the work will be phased — one side of the roadway at a time — to maintain access. Mayor Gonzalez also referenced the upcoming expansion of the Boys and Girls Club facility and expressed concern about heavy equipment traffic on the newly reconstructed surface, which staff confirmed would be managed through phased construction using the same contractor.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Farias to approve Change Order No. 8 for the Mayor Pablo Pena Park Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed $93,080 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

L. Discussion and consideration of the proposed employee health insurance premiums and employer contribution levels for the upcoming plan year and approve, modify, or provide direction to staff regarding the recommended health insurance premium structure. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

This item was taken out of order and considered prior to Reports. See page 2.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:08 p.m. Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to convene the regular meeting into executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

At 7:43 p.m. Mayor Gonzalez stated the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting as open to the public.

VII. POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHAT IS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel — Discussion regarding the goals, objectives, and evaluation of the City Manager for the City of Weslaco as authorized by Section §551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

B. Real Property — Consultation with the City Attorney regarding the sale, purchase, exchange, lease or value of property located on 18th Street and Westgate Drive, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas as authorized by Section §551.072 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve staff to proceed as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

C. Economic Development — Consultation with the City Attorney regarding financial offer or other incentives for Project Hollywood Reaper as authorized by Section §551.087 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve financial offer or other incentives for Project Hollywood Reaper as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gonzalez seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to adjourn the regular meeting of August 4, 2026 at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

____
Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

____
Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary